

REMARKS

Claims 1-14 were pending when last examined. With this Response, Applicants have amended claim 1. All pending claims are shown in the detailed listing above.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 102

Claims 1-14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by Applicants' admitted prior art. Applicants respectfully traverse.

Claim 1 as amended recites, *inter alia*, “an impedance cell located between the HVIC and one terminal of the switching device operable to reduce voltage drop when the switching device turns off and operable to reduce transition speed when the switching device turns on.” Support for this limitation is found in the Specification at paragraphs 0083 and 0084. Such limitation is not disclosed, taught, or suggested in Applicants' admitted prior art.

According to the Examiner, Applicants' admitted prior art (referring to Fig. 1) includes “an impedance cell (161-163) located between the HVIC and one terminal of the switching device operable to reduce voltage drop of the HVIC.” Applicants respectfully disagree. The elements 161-163 to which the Examiner refers are a stray inductor 161, a diode 162, and a shunt resistor 163. See Specification, paragraph 0006. The stray inductor 161, diode 162, and shunt resistor 163 do not constitute any “impedance cell” as alleged by the Examiner. Furthermore, the stray inductor 161, diode 162, and shunt resistor 163 are not “operable to reduce voltage drop when the switching device turns off and operable to reduce transition speed when the switching device turns on” as recited in Applicants' claim 1. Thus, the Applicants' admitted prior art does not anticipate claim 1.

For at least the reasons discussed above, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) be withdrawn and this claim be allowed. Furthermore, because claims 2-14 depend from claim 1 and include further limitations, the

Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of these dependent claims under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) also be withdrawn and that claims 2-14 be allowed.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully request that the pending claims be allowed and the case passed to issue. Should the Examiner wish to discuss the Application, it is requested that the Examiner contact the undersigned at (415) 772-7428.

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3/8/06


Date

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Respectfully submitted,

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March 8, 2006

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